Aelurodon

Aelurodon is an extinct canine genus of the subfamily Borophaginae which lived from the Barstovian land mammal age (16 mya) of the middle Miocene to the late Miocene epoch (5.332 mya).[2][3] *Aelurodon* existed for approximately 10.7 million years.

Description

Aelurodon are a part of a clade of canids loosely known as "bone-crushing" or "hyena-like" dogs, that apparently descended from the earlier genera *Protomarctus* and *Tomarctus*.[2] Several species are known from fossils found in the central and western U.S., suggesting a wide geographic range during their peak in the Miocene epoch.[4][2] Large species of *Aelurodon* (*A. ferox* and *A. taxoides*) may have hunted in packs like modern wolves.[5]

The evolution of *Aelurodon* is characterized by the progressive development of teeth adapted to a more hypercarnivorous diet, a trend consistent with other borophagines.[2] The earliest occurrence of the genus is *A. asthenostylus* dating from 16–14 Ma. This species then gives rise to two different anagenetic clades around 15 Ma. One comprises the species *A. montaneis*, *A. mcgrewi* and *A. stirtoni*, going extinct around 12 Ma. The other clade persists until 5.3 Ma and includes *A. ferox* and *A. taxoides*. *A. taxoides* is the most derived and largest species in *Aelurodon*.[1][2]

References

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Aelurodon

Temporal range: Barstovian-Hemphillian

~15.97–5.3 Ma

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN

Skull of *Aelurodon taxoides*

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Canidae
Subfamily:	†Borophaginae
Tribe:	†Borophagini
Subtribe:	†Aelurodontina
Genus:	†*Aelurodon* Leidy, 1858

Type species

†*Aelurodon ferox*

Species[1][2]

- †*A. asthenostylus*
- †*A. ferox*
- †*A. mcgrewi*
- †*A. montanensis*
- †*A. stirtoni*

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- †*A. taxoides*

Synonyms

- ***Prohyaena*** Schlosser, 1890
- ***Strobodon*** Webb, 1969

Further reading

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